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| 10/039,377 | 01/02/2002 | Jeffrey A. Perkins | 11694/04169 | 1144 |

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| EXAMINER |
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TADESSE, YEWEBDAR T

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1734

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/039,377

Applicant(s)

PERKINS ET AL.

Examiner

Yewebdar T. Tadesse

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 061605.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crum et al (US 5,718,767).

As to claim 26, Crum et al discloses (see Figs 1-2, column 7, lines 10-37) a method of controlling coating system configured interface with a plurality of spray guns (18,22,24), the method comprising actuating a spray gun selector among a plurality of spray gun selectors each corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of spray guns (switch buffer 110 and address switches 108 set or triggered by operator from among a plurality of gun controls 38, 40, 42 each corresponding to the plurality of spray guns 18, 22,24; see column 8, lines 1-22 and Fig 1), detecting the actuated spray gun selector input or a user input change, associating the actuated spray gun selector input with a particular spray gun and outputting the particular spray gun operating characteristics to a common display (through the use of processor 71, which is in communication with the network interface 104 and gateway control 56 (detecting data), wherein processing commands or event states, including information about the triggered gun of from the gun controls, decoded/created and interpreted through network communication line 44 and transmitted to operator control 36 having a display

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in the I/O device 72, see column 6, lines 40-45) and displaying the particular spray gun operating characteristics on the common display (I/O a screen display displaying processing conditions of the respective spray guns 18,22, 24 to the operator).

With respect to claim 27, in Crum et al (see Fig 1) the gun selectors are positioned on respective gun control subpanels (switch buffer 110 and address switches 108 are positioned on respective gun control subpanel (gun controls 38,40,42).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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5. Claims 16-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crum et al (US 5,718,767) in view of Bienduga (US 5,443,642).

As to claims 16-21, Crum et al discloses (see Figs 1-2, column 7, lines 10-37) a method of controlling coating system configured interface with a plurality of spray guns (18,22,24), the method comprising actuating a spray gun selector among a plurality of spray gun selectors each corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of spray guns (switch buffer 110 and address switches 108 set or triggered by operator from among a plurality of gun controls 38, 40, 42 each corresponding to the plurality of spray guns 18, 22,24; see column 8, lines 1-22 and Fig 1), reading the actuated spray gun selector input or a user input change, associating the actuated spray gun selector input with a particular spray gun and outputting the particular spray gun operating characteristics to a display (through the use of processor 71, which is in communication with the network interface 104 and gateway control 56, wherein processing commands or event states, including information about the triggered gun of each gun control, decoded/created and interpreted through network communication line 44 and transmitted to operator control 36 having a display in the I/O device 72, see column 6, lines 40-45, and displaying operating functions on an external PC). Although Crum et al discloses displaying powder coating process conditions or functions on a display of I/O devices and an external PC, displaying the particular spray gun operating characteristics within a cluster of operating characteristics associated with the plurality of spray guns is not taught. However as shown in Fig 3 of Bienduga, it is known to display the particular spray gun operating characteristics within a cluster of operating

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electrical characteristics associated with the plurality of spray guns (display 700 displaying which guns from the arrays, are on, off and faulted, display for each gun is disposed adjacent the other one). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display the characteristics associated with the plurality of spray guns in cluster in the method of controlling spray system of Crum et al to indicate the real time state of each gun in the gun arrays as taught by Bienduga (see columns 8-9, lines 66-68 and 1-37 respectively).

With respect to claims 22-23, Crum et al system is capable of reading and associating a group of spray gun selector input as the gateway control 56 communicates with the group of gun controls (38, 40 and 42). As discussed above Crum et al system as modified by Bienduga is capable of displaying the operating characteristics of each spray gun associated with the group of spray gun.

As to claim 24, in Crum et al outputting the particular spray gun characteristics to a display is performed on a display positioned on a master control panel (a display of I/O device 72 positioned on an operator control 36, see Fig 2).

Regarding claim 25, in Crum et al (see Fig 1) the gun selector inputs (switches 110 and 108) are positioned on respective gun control subpanels (gun controls 38,40,42).

6. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crum et al (US 5,718,767) as applied to claim 26 above and further in view of Bienduga (US 5,443,642).

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Although Crum et al teaches displaying powder coating process conditions or functions on a display of I/O devices and an external PC, displaying the particular spray gun operating characteristics within a cluster of operating characteristics associated with the plurality of spray guns is not taught. However, as shown in Fig 3 of Bienduga, it is known to display the particular spray gun operating characteristics on the common display (display 700 displaying which guns from the arrays, are on, off and faulted, display for each gun is disposed adjacent the other one). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display the characteristics associated with the plurality of spray guns in cluster in the method of controlling spray system of Crum et al to indicate the real time state of each gun in the gun arrays as taught by Bienduga (see columns 8-9, lines 66-68 and 1-37 respectively).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. As to the argument that Bienduga does not show a selection function, Crum et al discloses such function as describe above in the rejection.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yewebdar T. Tadesse whose telephone number is (571) 272-1238. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-4: 30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Fiorilla can be reached on (571) 272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


YTT


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